CYTURUS

Securing even the smallest link in the supply chain

Adversaries can undermine U.S. defense capabilities by making a slight alteration in a tiny subsystem

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Some larger companies have the resources to facilitate compliance with new regulatory requirements, such as the Defense Department's Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program. However, many smaller companies question the criticality of having every link in the supply chain comply with what can seem like overly demanding requirements.

To demonstrate why this is important, I like to use the hypothetical example of a small manufacturing company with only five employees that produces a single specific gasket for the F-35 fighter jet. This small manufacturing operation does not have an IT manager, it does not employ a security compliance officer, and the office is simply connected to local Wi-Fi via a cable modem. While it is a cost-effective solution for this small

changed the operating parameters. As a result, the company produces 10,000 gaskets that are technically defective because they were fabricated using the replaced parameters. Those gaskets go into the supply chain and eventually into the U.S. combat aircraft.

Soon that defective part causes a jet to flame out and crash, but because the military doesn't know why this happened, the entire fleet of the most advanced combat fighter aircraft in the world is grounded without our enemy firing a single physical shot. The weapons deployed on today's battlefield are virtual and in many instances are fired months in advance of the apparent impact.

A purpose-built platform for security compliance

The Cyturus Compliance and Risk Tracker (CRT) platform was designed to facilitate and simplify the compliance process. The proprietary Self-Guided Assessment module walks companies through their initial self-assessment to understand where their deficiencies are, establish a SPRS score, and identify areas that need remediation via development of a Plan of Action and Milestones and a System Security Plan (SSP). This process is unique to the industry.

An Organization Seeking Certification (OSC) can simply log into the Membership Portal at the website of the Cyber AB (which administers the CMMC program)

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organization, it is not CMMC-compliant.

Let's say that several months ago an aggressive nation-state bad actor accessed an unprotected PC on that cable company-supplied Wi-Fi connection. During the undetected intrusion, the bad actor made a minor adjustment to that specific gasket's dimension, decreasing it from 31 millimeters to 27 millimeters. The difference is not visually apparent but

and select a Registered Provider Organization (RPO), or vice versa, and those two entities become affiliated with each other within the Membership Portal system. As a Cyber AB RPO benefit, a Registered Practitioner (RP) or Registered Practitioner Advanced (RPA) can then be affiliated with the OSC to help it prepare for the certification assessment. Once affiliated, the RP/RPA can access the CRT tool via single sign-on integration to review the OSC's self-guided assessment and drill into the specific objectives and implementation solutions. When the OSC is ready for the certification

assessment, it can align with a CMMC Third-Party Assessment Organization.

Throughout this entire process, the OSC maintains complete control of its compliance evidence and proprietary information.

Why CMMC represents a paradigm shift

CMMC requires a different mindset and consequently a different set of procedures. Instead of demonstrating how they comply with security mandates now or have done so in the past, companies must show how

they will continue meeting those requirements in a consistent manner for the next 36 months.

It is a paradigm shift from offering a lens into historical security once a year to an organizational commitment to a more sustainable approach to operational security now and into the future. ◼

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